



www.VisualArtsAlliance.org

30th

Juried Member Exhibition

October 19 - December 1, 2012

Friday, October 19, 2012

Opening Reception

6:00 - 8:00 PM

Awards Presentation

7:00 PM

Heritage Plaza

1111 Bagby Street, Houston, TX 77002

Juror: Catherine D. Ansporn, Papercity Magazine
Visual Arts Editor/Social Editor

Vendors and Sponsors

Visual Arts Alliance extends appreciation to Brookfield Properties and Sarah Johnston for providing Heritage Plaza as an exhibition venue.

Special thanks goes to the following who contributed significantly to the creation of this exhibition.

Judi Burton Design - Graphic Design
 C2 Imaging - Printing
 Eric Rasche - Promotional CD Software

VAA acknowledges the generous support of these contributors.

Art Supply on Main
 Carston Peterson
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 Saint Arnold Brewing Company

Exhibition Volunteers

Howard Adams	Crystal Owens
Matt Adams	Donna E. Perkins
Homer Allen	J. Michael Reed
Deborah Bay	Shirl Riccetti
Daniel Brents	Karen Smith
Ran Debord	Rosalind Speed
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Jane Ewen	Barbara Tennant
Marsha Glickman	Donna Villarreal
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Rona Lesser	
Marlene Llanes	
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Susana O'Docharty	

As I pen this essay, first of all abundant thanks to the Visual Arts Alliance's Michael Reed and Matt Adams for inviting me to participate in what has turned out to be a very memorable — inspiring even — experience. After reviewing unmarked jpeg submissions by 115 (mostly) Houston-based artists, and considering more than 300 images, I was struck by the diversity and depth of talent creating in our hometown today. Rather than selecting work for the landmark 30th anniversary exhibition judged by its quality and strength alone, the thought was to make this a show that was curated based upon a subtle relationship among the offerings, while honing the exhibition to a field of just 50 images, to allow each work to breath and take a stance.

The final 50 selections hanging in the Heritage Plaza encompass primarily painting and photography, with a side of sculpture. The exhibition is installed to highlight relationships and underscore similarities among submissions that ranged across the stylistic spectrum. The finalists, installed across banks of movable walls, greet those entering this impressive building, or interact with the employees inhabiting its majestic granite-clad lobby as they step forth from the first-floor elevator banks.

Front and center is one of the winners, a canvas that bears the slogan, "What Now?," which the show could take as its subtitle, along with the themes of the clash of the "Domestic vs. Cosmic." And above all, in a strange coincidence, this exhibition coincides with a Presidential election, as well as the year that the world is supposed to end according to the Mayan calendar. Tellingly, the show takes place in an edifice famed for its Mayan-temple styled rooftop, while so many of the inclusions either celebrate the comforts of home or embrace stylistic tropes from the post-modern period (the era of this building's launch, 1984). On the other hand, there's a strong current of the cosmos: swirling vortexes, abstractions that hint at nebula, galaxies, pulsars or exploding, expanding universes. Knowing that artists are prophets, we perceive that they truly are the mirror of our age and its uneasy, fin-de-siècle sensibility.

For the first-place, I selected a photograph that is both exquisite and enigmatic: an image of a young girl floating in a pool, a modern Ophelia who instead of drowning we hope awakes to consciousness and empowerment. It is also an enchanting image of innocence and the reverie of dreaming, and it's important to point out that the star here is a heroine.

Second and third places, respectively, go to the retro, cartoony painting of Donald Duck brandishing a firearm, which is pop, film noir, humorous and unforgettable, all at the same time; and to a portal from a domestic interior, a canvas filled with pellucid blue-green light and promise, and both a beautiful painting as well as a metaphor for a hopeful future.

Honorable mentions are to these seven: a photorealist canvas of Canton Cafe, which reminds me of Edward Hopper's *Chop Suey* from 1929, as well as a conceptual comment about America's reliance on China; an exterior of a peach-colored bungalow complete with low-slung awnings, like closed eyelids, a painting that also breaks down to a wonderful exercise in linear abstraction; a compact, square-shaped abstraction of criss-crossing bands of color that is a kaleidoscopic, chromatic and in the tradition of Carlos Cruz-Diez; a reductive architecturally-influenced watercolor with bands and planes of color against an expansive white void; a dual-panel landscape with applied collage elements painted in an almost naive style, with a white swath of sky imbued with an air of expectancy; a nostalgic black-and-white photograph of an abandoned kitchen brimming with mystery and a few unanswered questions; and a landscape that seethes with energy, as its swirling magma mountain range rises up against a pulsating sky.

Other images of import include the Magritte-ean painting of a West Texas roadside featuring dual arrow signage; a pinkish-red stained canvas that possesses the delicacy of a Chinese landscape painting; a manipulated photo of a gray spiral against green and yellow rays; a neo-Baroque carnival scene, that is both gaudy and elegant; and an elegiac collage bearing salvaged text fragments, a cutout bluebird and barbell forms.

One final note: as you peruse this exhibition, I encourage all to follow the artists with whom you most resonate; and in most cases, the artworks on view are (quite affordably) available for acquisition, so do rise to the occasion and take one home for your personal collection.

Catherine D. Ansporn

VAA Juror, 30th Juried Member Exhibition
Papercity Magazine
 Visual Arts Editor/Social Editor

Juror's Biography

Since 1998, Ms. Ansporn has covered the Texas art scene for Papercity Magazine, joining as the Visual Arts Editor in 2004. Holding a Rice University B.A. in Art History and History, with an M.A. in Art History from the University of Missouri, Ms. Ansporn also serves as the Houston correspondent for *ARTnews* and has written features for *Art & Antiques*, *Art & Auction*, *Art in America*, *Glasstire*, and *Spot Magazine*. In 2010, Ansporn published her first book, Texas Artists Today, highlighting 62 contemporary Texas talents in studio.

Cash Awards

1st Place	\$500	Talya Arbisser	<i>Floating (Seeing With Hands: NOA)</i>
2nd Place	\$300	Daniel Brents	<i>What Now?</i>
3rd Place	\$200	Caroline Sharpless	<i>Blue Door</i>

Honorable Mention Awards

Matt Adams	<i>Growing Up</i>
Dorothy Clarke	<i>Canton Café</i>
Ran Debord	<i>Red Nebula</i>
Luisa Duarte	<i>Araya</i>
Diane Gelman	<i>Galveston Gazing</i>
Mongrel	<i>Imbrido #12</i>
Cary Reeder	<i>Three O'clock Shadow</i>

Sarita Ackerman

saritaackerman@gmail.com

It's All Make BelieveAcrylic on canvas
40"x40"
\$900***Cocktails, Sundress and Flip Flops***Acrylic on canvas
40"x40"
\$900**Matt Adams**

matt@adamsimagery.com

Growing UpArchival print
18"x23"
\$400**Joe C. Aker**

jaker@azphoto.com

1984UV ink on aluminum dibond
48"x48"
\$3,000***Lonely Road***UV ink on aluminum dibond
32"x48"
\$3,000**Talya Arbisser**

photosbytalya@arvisser.com

Floating (Seeing With Hands: NOA)Archival pigment print
18"x24"
\$350**Valentina Atkinson**

valeatkinson@gmail.com

la EsperaTransparent watercolor
15"x22"
\$1,200**Chris Bakay**

bakay_werd@yahoo.com

Trapped In YearningWatercolor, gouache, flower
pigment, arches paper
28"x21"
nfs**Deborah Bay**

deborahbay@gmail.com

Five-SevenLight-jet print
18"x24"
\$1,500**Drew Bedo**

drew_bedo@yahoo.com

Window Peak: Longs Peak***Colorado***
Archival print
11"x14"
\$250**Daniel Brents**

drbrents@comcast.net

What Now?Oil on canvas
30"x40"
\$1,600**Dorothy Clarke**

dotclarke6@hotmail.com

Canton CafeOil on canvas
18"x24"
\$3,800**Ran DeBord**

randebord@comcast.net

Red NebulaAcrylic on lexan
44"x39"
nfs**Luisa Duarte**

luisadu@hotmail.com

ArayaWatercolor
20"x20"
\$370**Jennifer M. Dunn**

jennifermdund@yahoo.com

Deep LayersOil on canvas
30"x24"
\$2,300**Karen Eisele**

k2eisele@hotmail.com

AvocetOil on canvas
36"x48"
nfs**Jane Ewen**

jane.ewen@sbcglobal.net

April ShowersAcrylic on canvas
24"x30"
nfs**Diane Gelman**

dianegel@aol.com

Galveston GazingMixed media - collage and oil
48"x30"
\$1,200**Marsha Glickman**

mnglickman@gmail.com

ConnectionsMixed media - found ephemera
44"x32"
\$2,400**Paula J. Haymond**

pjhaymond@comcast.net

Indra's DreamWood turned, carved, texture,
acrylic vase
13"x9"
\$1500***Dawn In The Garden Of Eden***Wood turned, carved, texture,
acrylic vase
12"x9"
\$1500**Rona Lesser**

ronalesser@gmail.com

Glacier ViewMonotype
22"x26"
\$350**Marlene Llanes**

llanes_m@yahoo.com

PapayaOil on canvas
30"x40"
\$1,000**Leslie Magdaleno**

magdalenoart@gmail.com

The Blue FlameAcrylic, graphite, found images
and colored pencil
18"x18"
\$450***Queens and Chickens***Acrylic, graphite, found images
and gold leaf
24"x30"
\$500

Mongrel

mreed2342@gmail.com

Imbrido #12Digital print
13"x13"
\$1,000**Thuy Thi Cam Nguyen**

thuythcamngyen@gmail.com

Red OnionWatercolor on paper
28"x34"
\$600**Susana O'Docharty**

sodocharty@aol.com

Sky RideArchival print
16"x20"
\$425**Royal Altantis**Archival print
16"x20"
\$425**R. Michael Reed**

mreed2342@gmail.com

On The BorderlinePainted plexiglas
30"x28"
\$1,800**Down the Yellow Brick Troll Road**Painted plexiglas
31"x13"
\$1,400**Cary Reeder**

cs_reeder@sbcglobal.net

Three O'Clock ShadowAcrylic on canvas
40"x30"
\$1,400**High Noon**Acrylic on canvas
38"x30"
\$1,250**Shirl Riccetti**

sriccetti@comcast.net

The DancerWatercolor
20"x24"
\$400**Caroline Sharpless**

cgsharpless@comcast.com

PinkOil on canvas
30"x30"
\$600**Windmill**Oil on canvas
36"x36"
nfs**Blue Door**Oil on canvas
40"x30"
\$600**Stephen Smith**

stevesmith2@msn.com

Laguna SecaArchival print
24"x24"
\$900**Spin**Archival print
34"x28"
\$1,200**Janice Graham Smith**

janicesmith0822@comcast.net

Hued Concentric CirclesPhotographic print
24"x24"
\$395**Magic Sphere w/Observer**Photographic print
24"x24"
\$395**Rosalind Speed**

speedrosalind@aol.com

MeditationPorcelain glazes
6"x6"
\$80**Lou Sprecher**

artbylou@gmail.com

Saturday Night FeverAcrylic
36"x36"
\$1,700**There's Daddy**Acrylic
18"x48"
\$2,500**Karen Stopnicki**

khouston006@yahoo.com

Two ForksWatercolor
26"x34"
\$750**Sally Stubbs**

colorcentric@aol.com

1898Photography
25"x31"
\$400**Gas**Photographic print
25"x31"
\$400**Lyn Sullivan**

lynsullivan@gmail.com

Soho IIArchival print
18"x24"
\$350**Barbara Tennant**

barbaratennant@att.net

RoadtripCollage, acrylic pen on canvas
24"x24"
\$600**Robert Williamson**

rwilliamson@hfflp.com

Decision TimeOil on canvas
40"x30"
nfs

Member Benefits

There are many benefits for both the artist and non-artist involved with VAA. Whether you are seeking to learn about specific artistic methods or resources throughout the Houston area, there is likely something of benefit to you, which include these professional development and educational opportunities:

- Receive a free personal webpage on VAA website.
- Network with curators, galleries and consultants.
- Receive promotional support.
- Network with Houston area artists.
- Learn to produce an exhibition.
- Artist talks
- Product Demonstrations
- Studio visits, museum & gallery tours
- Professionally juried exhibitions
- Member exhibitions

MEMBERSHIP DUES \$40

Please check one: New member
 Renewing member

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Home phone _____ Work or Cell phone _____

Email address _____

Artist's medium _____

Why I am interested in joining VAA _____

Referred by _____

Send membership form with check made payable to:

Visual Arts Alliance | P.O. Box 130703, Houston, TX 77219-0843

Mission Statement

Visual Arts Alliance, founded in 1981, is a non-profit, educational organization for serious practitioners of the visual arts and interested members of the general public.

At the Visual Arts Alliance monthly meetings, guest speakers and workshops are presented to give a broader understanding of the many aspects of the art world. Not only are new techniques demonstrated, but an effort is made to help members with the business side of their craft. Information is also made available on how and where to enter competitive exhibitions held throughout the country.

Artist members also may present their works for aesthetic appraisal by fellow members and visitors. Non-artists, especially collectors, can gain insight into the characteristics of various art media (oil, photography, clay, watercolor, wood, etc.) and gain appreciation of the constraints that artists must work with in order to achieve their creations.

Visual Arts Alliance encourages all artists, including non-members. Each year the group holds a well publicized, national, "open", juried exhibition where non-members as well as members are invited to compete. The Alliance also has an annual "Members Only" juried exhibition.

To maximize self-reliance in funding, members pay organizational dues, participants in the member and open juried competition pay entry fees, and the group receives a donation from all sales of work at Alliance exhibitions. Donations are also received from corporate and individual sponsors.

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- | | |
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2013 Upcoming Exhibitions

3rd

Juried Invitational Exhibition

January - March 2013

Total Plaza Gallery

1201 Louisiana Street, Houston, TX 77002

Juror: Patrick Palmer, Glassell Studio School
Faculty Chair/Dean

30th

Juried Open Exhibition

May - June 2013

One Allen Center

500 Dallas Street, Houston, TX 77002

Juror: To be announced
